

to an artisan to modify the Liddel et al. process by spray drying a fermentation broth, as the motivation supplied by Neuback is to purify the enzyme.

The Examiner has therefore not established a prima facie case of obviousness as there is no teaching or suggestion in either Liddel et al. or Neuback of spray drying a fermentation broth, according to the methods of the present invention.

Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted.

Date: November 12, 2002

Jason I. Garbell, Reg. No. 44,116 Novozymes North America, Inc. 500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600 New York, NY 10110 (212) 840-0097